

April 12, 2012

Via Federal Express

G. Marie Watts
Environmental Protection Specialist
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Superfund Division (SC-5J)
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590

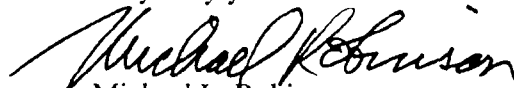


Re: **PART I of Wolverine World Wide's Response to U.S. EPA' Request
for Information Pursuant to Section 104 of CERCLA for Wolverine
World Wide's Former Tannery Site (SSID: C593) in Rockford,
Michigan**

Dear Ms. Watts:

I write on behalf of Wolverine World Wide in response to the above-referenced request for information and documents (the "Request"). Enclosed with this letter are Wolverine's objections and responses to the Request and a compact disc containing electronic copies of all non-privileged documents in Wolverine's possession, custody, or control that were identified during review of Wolverine's documents as responsive to one or more items in the Request. As agreed with Mr. Tom Williams, this submittal is Part I of Wolverine's response to the Request. It includes responses to Request items 3,¹ 4, 7, and 8. As agreed, Wolverine will respond to the remaining Request items (items 5 and 6) in Part II of its response, which will be provided no later than May 21, 2012. If you have any questions about this response, please contact me. Thank you.

Very truly yours,



Michael L. Robinson

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¹ Our agreement with Mr. Williams was to submit items 3(a), (c), (e), (f) by April 13, 2012, but this submittal includes Wolverine's response to every subpart of item 3.

Wolverine World Wide's Response to
U.S. EPA's Request for Information Pursuant to Section 104 of CERCLA for
Wolverine's Former Tannery Site (SSID C593) in Rockford, Michigan
PART I

As agreed with Mr. Tom Williams, this Response is Part I of Wolverine's response to the Request. It includes responses to Request items 3, 4, 7, and 8. As agreed, Wolverine will respond to the remaining Request items in Part II of its response, which will be provided no later than May 21, 2012.

GENERAL OBJECTIONS

In responding to the Request, Wolverine has undertaken a diligent and good-faith search for and review of information and documents in its possession, custody, and control. That said, Wolverine does not represent or warrant that all responsive documents have been identified during this review, and Wolverine reserves the right to voluntarily supplement its responses at any time should additional information become available. Wolverine asserts the following general privileges, protections, and objections with respect to the Request.

1. Wolverine asserts all available privileges and protections, including the attorney-client privilege, the attorney work-product doctrine, all privileges and protections related to materials generated in anticipation of litigation, the settlement communication protection, the confidential business information ("CBI") and trade secret protections, the joint defense privilege, and any other privilege or protection available to it under law. Wolverine is not providing privileged documents. In the event that a privileged or protected document has been inadvertently included among the documents produced in response to the Request, Wolverine asks that any such document be returned to Wolverine immediately.
2. Wolverine objects to Instruction 3 to the extent it seeks to require Wolverine to seek out responsive information from former employees and agents. Wolverine is providing information within its possession, custody, and control.
3. Wolverine objects to Instruction 5. Wolverine is responding to this Request with information within its possession, custody, and control, and Wolverine will similarly comply with any lawful future requests that are within EPA's authority. Wolverine reserves the right to voluntarily supplement its responses at any time should additional information become available.
4. Wolverine objects to Instruction 8. Requiring the certification specified in that instruction is beyond the EPA's 104(e) authority. Wolverine has undertaken a diligent and good-faith search for and review of information and documents in its possession, custody, and control. Subject to these objections, it is submitting all known, responsive, non-privileged information within its possession, custody, and control and is not knowingly submitting any false information. Wolverine reserves the right to supplement its responses at any time should additional information become available.

5. Wolverine objects to Instruction 9 and the Request's definition of "documents." Wolverine disclaims any responsibility to search for, locate, or provide EPA with copies of any documents "known [by Wolverine] to exist," or to identify documents that "have been transferred to others or have otherwise been disposed of" without Wolverine's knowledge. Further, Wolverine objects to the definition of "documents" as overly broad and unduly burdensome. Wolverine is providing known, responsive, non-privileged information and documents within its possession, custody, and control.

6. Wolverine objects to the Request to the extent that it asks Wolverine to describe certain items in detail and to separately provide information that is contained in documents furnished to or already in the possession of the EPA. Documents that were previously provided to the EPA are provided again as a courtesy as part of this Response. But information sought by EPA that is set forth only in those documents is not separately stated in detail this Response. In those circumstances, to the extent that a more complete answer to such requests can be determined by examining the provided documents, the burden of that examination is the same for Wolverine and EPA. Requiring Wolverine to separately provide a detailed answer, rather than referring to the provided documents, would be unduly burdensome.

OBJECTIONS AND RESPONSES

3. **Produce correct and complete copies of the following:**

a) **All available environmental data, including, but not limited to, all soil, sediment and groundwater sample collection data and analyses; all groundwater and surface water elevation data used to determine groundwater flow direction; and any other environmental sample collection data and analyses from the site;**

b) **Any and all information relating to the historic solid waste handling and disposal practices at the site, including waste liquids, semi-liquids, and sludges. Please include data from the period antedating the construction of the facility's wastewater treatment plant, and include information regarding any analysis and cleanup of chemical spills at the site;**

c) **Any and all information relating to the removal of wastes (both characterized and uncharacterized), including quantities, analyses and disposal destinations, during the demolition of the tannery;**

d) **Any and all data regarding chemical storage during site operations, including the location and capacity of above- and below-ground storage tanks, vats, drums and containers;**

e) **Any and all data regarding media known to be contaminated with hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants, including soils, solid wastes and any process residues left on site or along the adjacent river banks during decommissioning and demolition activities; and**

f) All records of any air monitoring conducted during decommissioning and demolition of the site

Wolverine objects to this request as unduly burdensome and unreasonable to the extent that it asks Wolverine to respond to matters beyond its knowledge or to produce documents or information not within its possession, custody, and control. Subject to its general objections, Wolverine produces in response to this Request (3a-f) the documents in folder numbers 3 and 3-4 on the enclosed compact disc.

4. Identify the chemicals historically used at the site.

Wolverine objects to this request as unduly burdensome and unreasonable to the extent that it asks Wolverine to respond to matters beyond its knowledge or to produce documents or information not within its possession, custody, and control. Subject to its general objections, Wolverine produces in response to this Request the documents in folder number 3-4 on the enclosed compact disc.

7. Identify the location of any drum storage area at the site, and identify any wastes that were stored in such areas.

Wolverine objects to this request as unduly burdensome and unreasonable to the extent that it asks Wolverine to respond to matters beyond its knowledge or to produce documents or information not within its possession, custody, and control. Subject to its general objections, Wolverine produces in response to this Request the documents in folder numbers 7 and 3-4 on the enclosed compact disc. By way of further answer, to Wolverine's knowledge the drum storage area at the site was used to store raw materials, not wastes. Waste was discharged through process piping to the wastewater treatment plant. Pressed sludge cakes from the wastewater treatment plant were disposed of at an approved offsite landfill.

8. Identify the protocols that were followed during the tannery's demolition to characterize soils, demolition materials and any wastes discovered on site during the demolition, and identify the locations to which soils, demolitions and waste materials were sent.

Wolverine objects to this request as unduly burdensome and unreasonable to the extent that it asks Wolverine to respond to matters beyond its knowledge or to produce documents or information not within its possession, custody, and control. Subject to its general objections, Wolverine produces in response to this Request the documents in folder number 3 on the enclosed compact disc. By way of further answer, Wolverine disturbed soils as little as possible during demolition. During demolition, in the event that Wolverine noticed a soil condition that appeared out of the ordinary, Wolverine characterized the soil based on available data. This occurred in two locations. One location was the space under tannery maintenance area where the waste line to the wastewater treatment plant had broken. The broken line was identified as the source of any soil contamination. Accordingly, the soil was characterized as the same waste that had historically been treated at the wastewater treatment plant. It was disposed of as such by Valley City Environmental. The other location was directly under the primary clarifier tank at the wastewater treatment plant. In that location, there was a small amount of discolored soil that

had the appearance and odor of tannery waste. This was characterized as tannery waste that may have leaked through a crack in the base of the clarifier. It was disposed of accordingly by Valley City Environmental. An asbestos survey was performed in advance of demolition. Asbestos removal took place prior to demolition, as well as during demolition when asbestos was identified. All chemicals and process piping were removed and/or cleaned prior to demolition by Valley City Environmental. Valley City Environmental washed, rinsed, and wipe tested containers, walls, floors, and other surfaces that came into contact with chemicals during the tanning process. Wolverine sent demolition waste materials to the following locations:

- Richmond Transfer Station, 675 Richmond, Grand Rapids, MI (Salvage material, demo debris and ferrous and non-ferrous recyclables)
- Pitsch Landfill, 7905 Johnson Road, Grand Rapids, MI (Non-hazardous demolition debris).
- Pitsch, 200 North Park, Grand Rapids, MI (Concrete).
- Padnos (Turner Facility), 2125 Turner Grand Rapids, MI (Steel).
- LANCO, 665 10 Mile, Sparta MI (Electrical Equipment).
- Woodland Paving, 3566 Mill Creek Comstock Park, MI (Asphalt).
- Superior Asphalt, Century, Grand Rapids, MI (Asphalt).
- Valley City (PCB containing light ballasts).

I certify under penalty of law that I have examined and am familiar with the information submitted in responding to the Request. To the best of my knowledge the information submitted is true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment.

Signature: 

Name: JOHN O'BRIEN

Title: DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES

Date: 7/12/12